

## Engage, Retain, and Profit: Transforming News into Subscription Growth Models



# News Media Disrupters

1. Classifieds & Job Listings

Craigslist Indeed & LinkedIn Facebook Marketplace

2. Local News & Community Updates

Nextdoor Patch 6AM City

3. Breaking News & General News Coverage

Twitter/X, Google News, Apple News, Axios, Morning Brew

4. Opinion & Editorials

Substack Medium

5. Sports Coverage

ESPN & The Athletic Bleacher Report

6. Weather Reports

The Weather Channel AccuWeather

7. Stock Market & Financial News

Bloomberg, Yahoo Finance & CNBC Reddit (r/wallstreetbets)

8. Entertainment & Celebrity News

TMZ & People Magazine Online YouTube & TikTok

9. Investigative Journalism & Long-Form Reports

ProPublica & The Intercept The Ringer & Vox Media

10. Real Estate Listings

Zillow & Redfin

11. Obituaries & Personal Announcements

Legacy.com Facebook

12. Editorial Cartoons & Comics

Webcomics & Meme Culture (The Oatmeal, XKCD, etc.)



## What's the difference?

How to Lead a Subscription Turnaround



- Member On Ramp™
- Subscriber-based tiered pricing.
- Recurring revenue dashboard.
- High retention systems.





## Stop

- X Attract high churn subscribers
- X Broadest reach possible
- X Low subscriber engagement
- X Set it and forget it
- X Cut expenses to grow profit



## Start

- Retention prone subscriber focus
- Relationship building
- High value onboarding
- Split test for LTV
- Reduce churn for profit





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X Attract high churn subscribers



## Start

Retention prone subscriber focus

## How is content quality measured?



# What is daily news email for?

timesunion.com View in Browser



MARCH 5, 2025

e-Edition | Weather | Puzzles | Obituaries









# What is daily news email for?

March 05, 2025

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#### PRESENTED BY GRAYSCALE

**Good morning.** Is nothing sacred? Hasbro announced a <u>new version</u> of Monopoly that goes full fintech, replacing the role of the banker and paper money with a mobile app that keeps track of everything for you. While Monopoly App Banking may speed up the notoriously slow gameplay and require you to do less math, it also means more screen time during board games and makes it much harder to cheat. Throw them in jail.

—Matty Merritt, Sam Klebanov, Cassandra Cassidy, Adam Epstein, Neal Freyman, Holly Van Leuven











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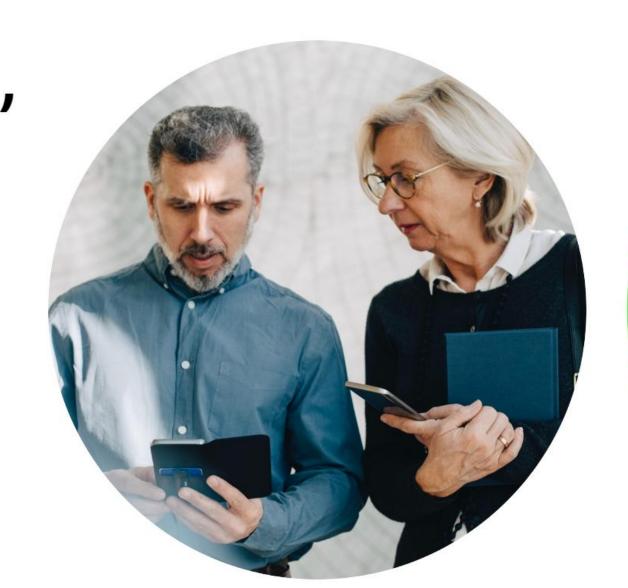
## Who do you write for?





Financial research, software, education and tools for selfdirected investors







# We invite you to follow our growth.

**NASDAQ: MKTW** 

\$1.67

+0.06 (+3.73%)

Data Provided by Refinitiv. Minimum 15 minutes delayed.



#### **Overview**

With more than 20 years of operating history, MarketWise is currently comprised of 12 primary customer facing brands, offering more than 190+ products, and serving a community of more than 16 million free and paid subscribers. MarketWise's products are a trusted source for high-value financial research, education, actionable investment ideas, and investment software. MarketWise is a 100% digital, direct-to-customer company offering its research across a variety of platforms including mobile, desktops, and tablets. MarketWise has a proven, agile, and scalable platform and our vision is to become the leading financial solutions platform for selfdirected investors.

#### Featured publications

- Investor Presentation August 10, 2023
- Investor Presentation May 11, 2023
- Investor Presentation March 30, 2023
- Investor Presentation November 3, 2022
- Investor Presentation August 8, 2022
- Investor Presentation May 9, 2022

#### **MarketWise**

# 2Q23 Investor Presentation



#### PREMIUM SUBSCRIPTION CONTENT, SOFTWARE AND TOOLS

#### **ACTIONABLE IDEAS**



The Bigger the Lie

the Update

Opt

"Prices are liars," one well me. He was right.

Prices can't seem to help t That's why it pays for an idistrust and skepticism.

Sometimes priors tell little as incredible and outland

At the peak of a bull murk the eyes and try to make y market values" that accur

But in the depths of a box type of fiction. They lead; are accurate indications o investment potential.

Lies... All of them.

Simply stated, deceptions here's the good news: The compelling insestment op

Consider a couple of recent telling us that the prospec were lackhoster, at best,

They were priced for a ten silver prices - many of th Here's What You Blockchain Dece

PowerGauge REPORT

CHAIRIN ANALYTICS

Welcome to our new subscribers. Bi day early.

Dear reader,

If you haven't already, I recomment look at our special reports and Mass learning more about reputable exch

This week, I'm covering Cosmos' (A announcements, And I'm looking at

This week, I'm also explaining why specifically the seemingly infinite v looking for one eary way to do ever that in mind, I'm also looking at wh are faster and cheaper to use than '

Finally, I'm following up on a story:

#### This Stock Will Soon Be Rated a "BUY" at Every Bank on Wall Street

At Challin Analytia, we billere in a "Top-Overn Approach" to investing Why? It allows investors to human the strength of the normal periods, manage investment risks, and intrinsic hiss and emotional decisions. The recent explosion of ETFs, whenthy investors can invest salely in a commodity or service, into a to a triffient humans can arteri to the popularity of this approach.

Top-down investing starts with a "big-partner" retoduct. This macro starting point allows investors to make decisions based on overall freends in the market. It begins with isoking at the number as a whole, then sectors and subsection, and, bothy, drifting down to find the heat studie in three sectors.

Especially conquared to the conneception, "Bottore-Up breating," a type of value trensting that trensives constraints believe therets and individual superts of a company, "Top-Down investing," so a more manageable approach for traditional structures and can help buffer against risk.

Supposed investing starts with understanding the tension file market hallock or hearted. We other tensor to invest with the direction of the market, rather than against it, Secusion the correll merket frond can greatly impact the movement of individual shocks.

Think of the phase 'a rising tide lifts all bosis." in turns of invocing, this muon using the same bullet or bounds direction of the number for your own intentionest, using the 'rising tide' of the number to lift your invocement bush.

Now that you've determined which direction the market is headed, start

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Present Gauge Report 1.1

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ABOUT THE EDITOR:

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**Harc Chalkin** 

#### **SOFTWARE & TOOLS**









#### **CHAIKIN** ANALYTICS



#### **OUR PRIMARY CUSTOMER-FACING BRANDS**

























#### MARKETWISE AT A GLANCE

#### DRAMATIC SCALING SINCE 2017

- Products grew from <50 to 200+1</li>
- Editorial team has grown to 80+1
- Employees grew from 275 to 650+1
- Significantly expanded lead generation efforts which fuel the Free-to-Paid distribution channel
- Upgraded corporate infrastructure with deployment of new systems & applications, including analytics and machine learning

~17M

Digital Platform Members<sup>2</sup> at 6/30/23 ~750K

Paid Digital Subscribers at 6/30/23 \$490

Industry Leading Average Revenue per User (ARPU) as of 2Q23<sup>3</sup>

\$399M

2Q23 Trailing-fourquarter (T4Q) Billings<sup>4</sup> 16%

2Q23 T4Q Adjusted Free Cash Flow (FCF) Margin<sup>5</sup> 99.9%

2Q23 T4Q Adjusted Cash Flow from Operations (CFFO) Conversion<sup>6</sup> (Low Capex)

<sup>1.</sup> As of June 30, 2023

<sup>2.</sup> Includes free and paid subscribers

<sup>3.</sup> ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) is calculated as trailing four quarter net Billings / average number of trailing four quarter paid subscribers

<sup>4.</sup> Billings represents amounts invoiced to customers

<sup>5.</sup> Adjusted FCF Margin = Adjusted FCF/ Billings. Adjusted FCF is calculated as Adjusted CFFO - Capital Expenditures. Adjusted CFFO is calculated as net cash provided by operating activities plus profits distributions to Class B unitholders included in stock-based compensation expense plus or minus any non-recurring items (see appendix for reconciliation to the nearest GAAP measure)

	# OF SUBSCRIBERS <sup>1</sup>	CUMULATIVE LIFETIME SPEND <sup>1</sup>	SELECTED EXAMPLES
Free General market commentary, current events - Insightful and educational	15.9M		<ul> <li>Newswire</li> <li>Investor Hour</li> <li>The Weekly Pulse</li> <li>The Daily Cut</li> </ul>
Paid  Mega Cap equities and basic investment strategies	391K <sup>2</sup>	<\$600	<ul> <li>Fry's Investment Report - \$249</li> <li>Empire Stock Investor - \$199</li> </ul>
High Value  More advanced investing strategies - Value Investing, Microcaps, Real Estate, Options, Trading, Cryptocurrencies	218K <sup>2</sup>	\$600-\$5,000	• Empire Elite Growth - \$5,000 • Palm Beach Venture - \$5,000
Ultra High Value Product bundles	141K²	>\$5,000	Alliance - \$34,000 + \$499 annually     Total Portfolio - \$15,000 + \$499 annually

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391,000 X \$100 = **\$39,100,000** 

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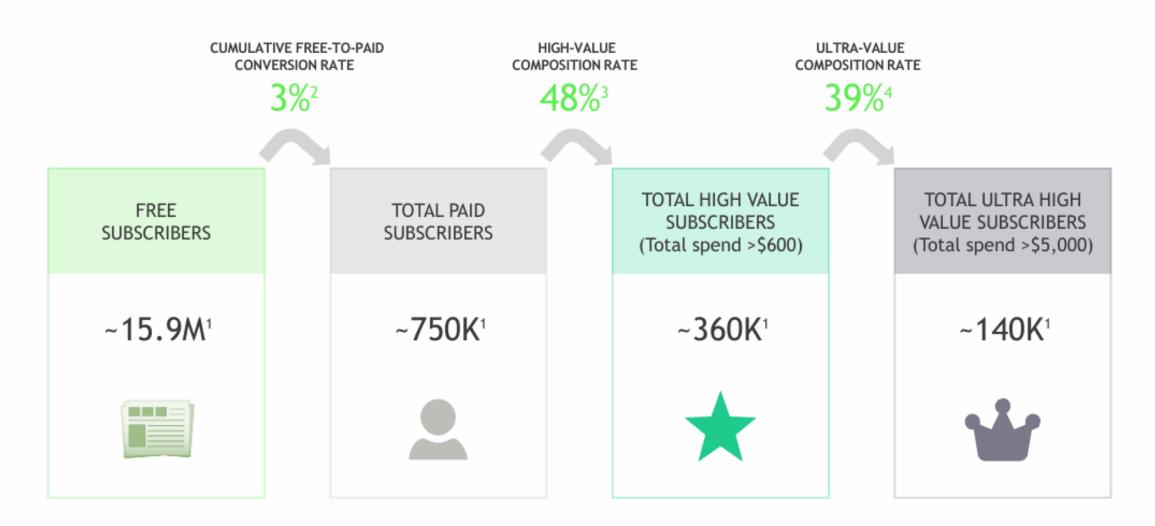
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\$39,100,000

\$130,800,000

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#### BEST-IN-CLASS BUSINESS MODEL TAILORED FOR HIGH VALUE SUBSCRIBERS



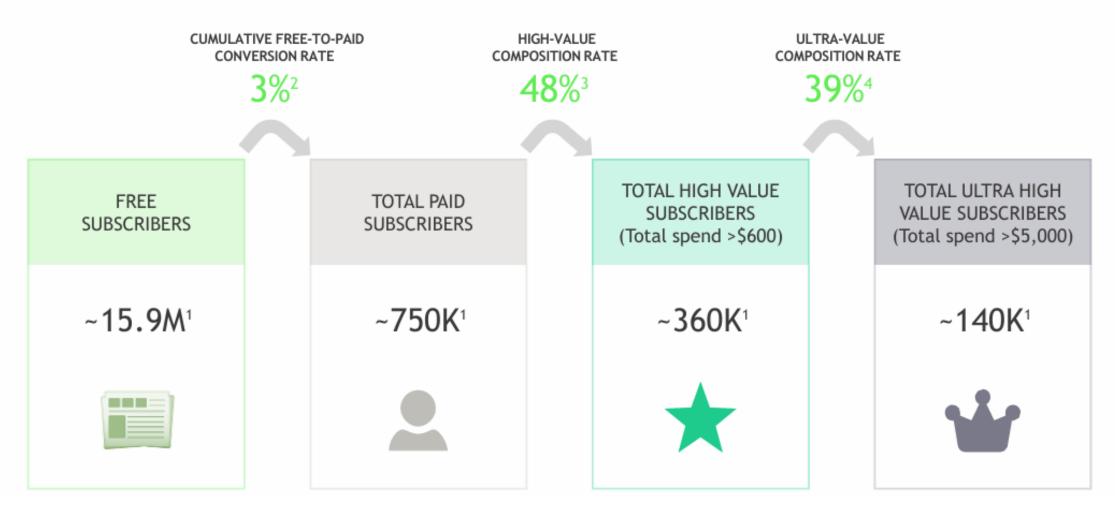
<sup>1.</sup> Subscriber figures shown as of June 30, 2023

<sup>2.</sup> Represents cumulative free-to-paid conversion rate for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. Calculated as (number of free subscribers who purchased their first subscription or their first purchase after six months of not having an active subscription across all of MarketWise, or the first post-acquisition financial transaction to MarketWise from a subscriber that was acquired via brand acquisition during the period) / (average number of free subscribers during the period)

<sup>3.</sup> Represents high-value composition rate as of June 30, 2023. Calculated as (number of paid subscribers who have purchased >\$600 in aggregate over their lifetime as of June 30, 2023)/(number of paid subscribers as of June 30, 2023)

<sup>4.</sup> Represents ultra-value composition rate as of June 30, 2023. Calculated as (number of paid subscribers who have purchased >\$5,000 in aggregate over their lifetime as of June 30, 2023)/(number of high value subscribers as of June 30, 2023)

#### BEST-IN-CLASS BUSINESS MODEL TAILORED FOR HIGH VALUE SUBSCRIBERS



### Zero ad revenue!

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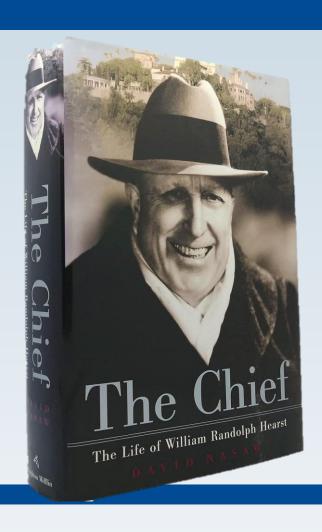
Legacy.com Facebook

12. Editorial Cartoons & Comics

Webcomics & Meme Culture (The Oatmeal, XKCD, etc.)



# Not ONLY the Newspaper Biz



"Hearst built the nation's first media conglomerate by extending his newspaper empire horizontally into syndicated feature, photo, and wire services; magazines, newsreels; serial, feature, and animated films; and radio...The opportunities were limitless for expanding his empire - and his audiences - and he capitalized on every one of them. Decades before synergy become a corporate cliche, Hearst put the concept into practice. His magazine editors were directed to buy only stories which could be rewritten into screenplays to be produced by his film studio and serialized, and reviewed, and publicized in his newspapers and magazines. He broadcast the news from his papers over the radio and pictured it in his newsreels."





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Stop



Cut expenses to grow profit

Reduce churn for profit

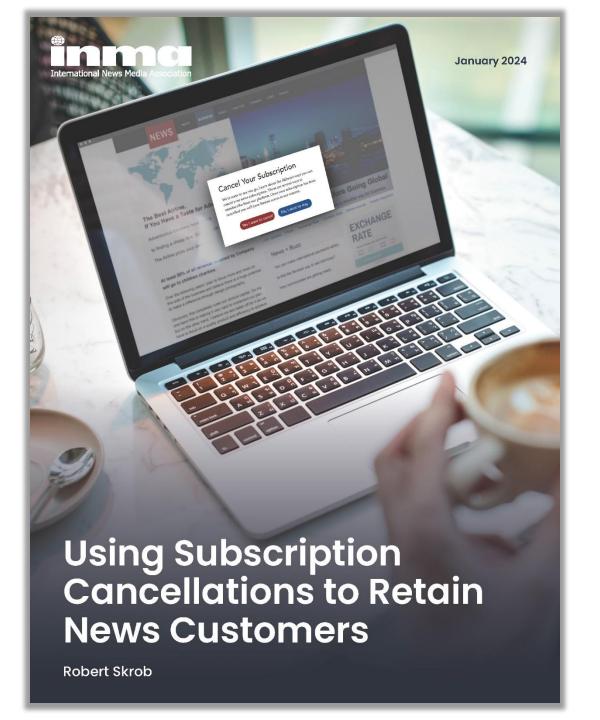
## What business are you in?



# 5 Key Retention Systems

- 1. Subscriber Disable Auto-Charge
- 2. Failed Charge Recovery
- 3. Annual Renewal
- 4. Past Subscriber Recovery
- 5. Bounce-back Campaign





# Using Subscription Cancellations to Retain News Customers

#### Robert Skrob

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### **About**

### About the author



Robert Skrob has been growing subscription businesses for more than 30 years and has helped grow retention rates and recurring revenue for public companies, worldwide subscription brands, and billion-dollar publishers. His book, Retention Point, is the bible on new subscriber onboarding, and he recently created a seven-part membership subscription growth framework to attract and retain members by creating a vibrant tribe of members who love you and brag about you to their friends. Discover more at www.EvergreenRetentionMachine.com or contact him at RS@RobertSkrob.com

#### About the International News Media Association



The International News Media Association (INMA) is a global community of market-leading news media companies reinventing how they engage audiences and grow revenue in a multi-platform environment. The INMA community consists of more than 21,000 members at 1,000+ news media companies in 90+ countries, representing tens of thousands of news brands. INMA is the news media industry's foremost ideas-sharing network with members connected via conferences, reports, Webinars, virtual meetings, awards competitions, and an unparalleled archive of best practices.

# **Executive summary**

"Using Subscription Cancellations to Retain News Customers" is a boots-on-theground research project, offering a unique consumer perspective on a topic news media companies don't talk about enough.

Robert Skrob, author of *The Retention Point*, spent one week cancelling 14 subscriptions at major media companies in the United States and the United Kingdom. In this report, he shares his personal experiences with that process.

Subscription cancellation processes typically go wrong for one of three reasons, Skrob says in the report:

- They are neglected by the company because cancellation processes are one
  of the least exciting aspects of a subscription business.
- They are incomplete because companies haven't taken time to learn about some of the key components that would improve it.
- They are unsupervised, which can create problems as designers may use
  methods the the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and other regulating
  bodies find objectionable. Every team working on optimising retention
  through the cancellation process should be supervised by a key leader with
  the company's broader mission in mind.

To create a high-retention cancellation process, leaders within news media companies must gain a better understanding of where these processes go wrong. Regardless of the type of subscription — whether for news, entertainment media, or a physical product like a meal service — certain best practices stand out.

Without these five essential elements, media publishers likely are losing more subscribers than they should:

- Ease: The FTC mandates it should be as easy to unsubscribe from a product or service as it is to subscribe.
- Benefits: Companies should demonstrate all the benefits provided by the subscription.
- 3. Offer: Providing subscribers with an offer to stay increases retention rates.
- 4. Confirmation: Make it clear to the subscriber that they have cancelled their subscription, and also let them know what access they may have for the remainder of the subscription.
- Regain: A subscriber win-back campaign at the point of cancellation is a massive subscription retention and growth opportunity.

Finally, case studies from The Telegraph, Financial Times, Aftenposten, and Ringier Axel Springer walk readers through cancellation processes, giving a closer look at how the processes could be improved.

As news publishers struggle to attract and retain subscribers, investing time and energy into the subscription cancellation process is a worthy use of time. Not only can positive retention processes improve trust amongst readers, but they will have a long-term effect on subscription revenues and the growth of media companies in general.

# Subscriber Cancelation Process

Every subscriber who cancels experiences this process.

The quality of this system can have a huge positive impact on retention rates.



# Subscriber Cancelation Process

# A Look Inside:





### **Subscription Details**

Your subscription Pa

Payments

Manage your subscription

### Your subscription

Subscription:

Digital

Breaking news, analysis, opinion and more. Available anytime, across web and app. Also includes access to Telegraph Puzzles

Subscriber number:

TS22027617



Subscription start:

June 07, 2023 \$9 per year

Your Current Plan:

Subscription price:

One month free, then \$9 for a year Your free trial starts today. Billed after your 31 days free as \$9 for 12 months. Renews automatically each year, cancel auto-renewal at any time. We will notify you of any price increases in advance.

Next Billing date:

July 08, 2023

### **Puzzles**

Details:

Your subscription includes unlimited access to our brilliant Puzzles website. Take on a range of word and number games for every level of ability, including our world-famous cryptic crossword, sudoku and Cross Atlantic, our USstyle crossword with bags of British intelligence.

Explore Puzzles

My Account

**Account Settings** 

**Subscription Details** 

Newsletters

Help Centre

# Subscription Details

Your subscription

Payments

Manage your subscription

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Digital

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Subscriber number:	TS22027617	i
Subscription start:	June 07, 2023	
Subscription price:	\$9 per year	
Your Current Plan:	One month free, then \$9 for a year Your free trial starts today. Billed after your 31 days free as \$9 for 12 months. Renews automatically each year, cancel auto-renewal at any time. We will notify you of any price increases in advance.	
Next Billing date:	July 08, 2023	
December		

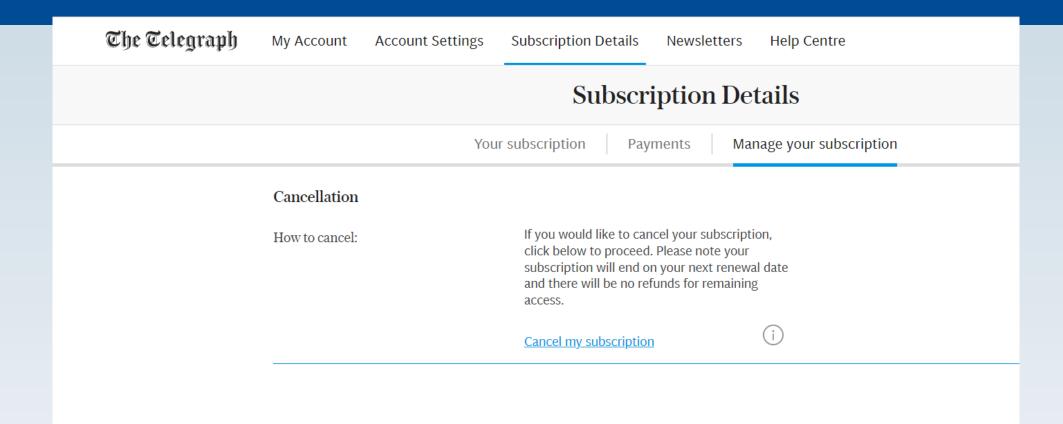
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Details:

Your subscription includes unlimited access to our brilliant Puzzles website. Take on a range of word and number games for every level of ability, including our world-famous cryptic crossword, sudoku and Cross Atlantic, our USstyle crossword with bags of British intelligence.

**Explore Puzzles** 

# Subscriber Cancelation Process







# Are you sure you want to leave us?

Please tell us why you wish to cancel your subscription

<b>Y</b>
It's too expensive
I'm having issues with my subscription
I'm not getting enough value from my subscription
I only wanted a free trial
I don't have enough time to use my subscription
I don't like some of the editorial
Other
<u></u>

### YOUR CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION:

### Digital

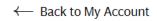
Breaking news, analysis, opinion and more. Available anytime, across web and app. Also includes access to Telegraph Puzzles

#### YOUR PAYMENTS:

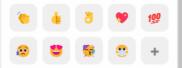
You pay annually for your subscription billed as \$9 per year on a rolling contract.

TOTAL:

\$9 per year



Continue to next step  $\rightarrow$ 



## How your access will change if you cancel your subscription

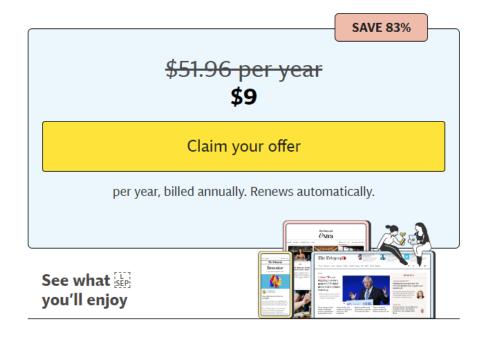
WHAT YOU ENJOY:	YOUR SUBSCRIBER ACCESS	AFTER CANCELLING
Unlimited access to our website	/	×
Our journalists' email newsletters	/	×
The latest news updates and the daily digital newspaper in the exclusive Telegraph app	/	×
A bonus subscription to share with a friend or family member	/	×
Unlimited access to our brilliant brain- teasers on the Telegraph Puzzles website	/	×
Access to the subscriber-only comment section on our website	/	×
Access to a limited number of articles per week	_	/
Our free-to-read newsletters only	_	/

 $\leftarrow$  Go back a step

Keep my subscription

Continue to cancel  $\longrightarrow$ 

# Robert, stay with us and save



 $\longleftarrow$  Go back a step

Continue to cancel  $\longrightarrow$ 

X



### Robert, here's our final offer



### Are you sure you want to cancel?

You'll no longer enjoy unlimited access to our journalism on our website and app, but you will still be registered with us.

Keep my subscription

Cancel my subscription

← Go back a step

Continue to cancel  $\longrightarrow$ 

### Your subscription has been cancelled

You can still enjoy your subscriber access until the date below. We won't charge you after this date.

July 08, 2023

### We're sorry to lose you as a subscriber

You can stay connected to our award-winning journalism with all the benefits of your free account. You'll no longer have full subscriber access but you'll still be registered with us.



Enjoy one free article per week on Broaden your horizons with our telegraph.co.uk on anything from health to politics, sport and beyond.



journalists' compelling newsletters on the subjects you love the most.



Follow advice, insights and indepth analysis from a range of experts with our brilliant daily podcasts.

### Changed your mind?

If you're having second thoughts about cancelling, you can restart your subscription in the Subscription Details section of My Account, or directly below.

Restart my subscription

### Tell us what you think

Share your thoughts on what we could have done better and you'll be entered into our monthly prize draw. Terms and conditions apply.

Complete our survey

# Robert Skrob

- Robert@BeUnleavable.com
- **Be Unleavable**

